

OLD EXCHANGE HOTEL

Corner Liberty and Thirteenth



Very early in Franklin's development, this corner was of great importance to residents and travelers. In the 1820s John Lupher had a blacksmith shop here and William Bennett was the proprietor of a rooming establishment. The first hotel was a four-story frame building that opened in 1866 and destroyed by fire in 1870. May of 1871 saw the opening of a new brick Exchange Hotel —just in time for the September visit of **President Ulysses S. Grant** and family as they toured the Venango County oil regions. The train that brought them here was colorfully decorated and hundreds of people gathered to greet the President. Carriages brought the family to the Exchange where they stayed overnight before leaving the next day on a special train for Pittsburgh. This hotel was closed on May 15, 1964 making way for the existing bank building.

OLD CITY HALL AND OPERA HOUSE

Corner of Thirteenth and Buffalo Streets



The cornerstone for this municipal building was laid on May 30, 1883. Within this structure were the city offices, police station, fire department and jail. This historic building was demolished during the “urban renewal program” of the 1960s. The new city building was constructed on this same site.

Adjoining old City Hall, the Opera House opened in 1866 and provided local citizens with fine theater presentations and talented speakers such as Samuel Clemens and Susan B. Anthony.

MRS. WEBBER'S BOARDING HOUSE
Buffalo Street – Corner of Thirteenth Street



Adam Webber built this home in the 1840s. He was Franklin postmaster until his death in 1860. His widow, Sarah Smith Webber succeeded him as postmaster and turned the family home into a rooming house during the oil boom.

Arriving in Franklin in the spring of 1864, **John Wilkes Booth** took up part-time residence in this house. He invested in land and oil wells located on a 60-acre tract in Cranberry Township. Well liked by area citizens, he often entertained them with readings and his acting ability. In September 1864 he left the boarding house. Franklin did not hear of him until the following spring when wires flashed the news of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The house was demolished in 1951 after the Elks Club acquired the parcel.

A. LEACH GROCERY /BOSTON SHOE STORE

425 Thirteenth Street



Leach Grocery Store ca. 1900
Illustration by Barbara Grove
Franklin High School - © 2003

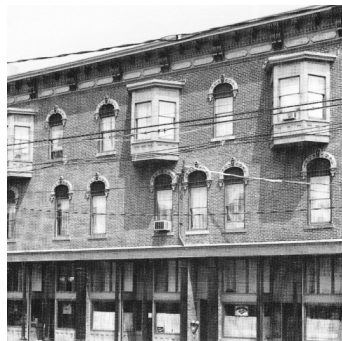
For many years this structure was known as the A. Leach & Co. Grocery. Mr. Leach and his son continued with their business until the early 1930s when Boyd Stanley took ownership. The Boston Shoe Store was also a long-term merchant at this location. This commercial Italianate facade features window hoodmolds and crowned with a heavily ornamented bracketed cornice.

**R.H. CALLAN
BUILDING**
421 Thirteenth Street



Richard Callan erected the building on the left of the Leach Grocery Store in the early 1900s. The family took up residence in the upper floor and in the storefront below offered pharmaceuticals and a selection of liquors.

MCMULLEN BLOCK
409 – 415 Thirteenth Street



This structure was once a part of the Exchange Bank that was erected on the corner in 1872. The existing building survived the 1917 demolition of the front section the old Exchange Bank.

In 1982 Bob and Donna McMullen carefully restored the facade to its original beauty. During the era when this building was part of the bank the storefronts housed various businesses including the Rose Brothers Ice Cream Shop.